

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending in the application. Claim 15 has been cancelled. Claims 1-14 and 16-24 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16-24 are pending in the application.

EXAMINED CLAIMS AND SECTION 37 CFR 1.75 (C) OBJECTIONS

Apparently the Examiner did not examine claims 1-23 which were filed with the present application. As noted in the transmittal, and as acknowledged by the filing receipt, the filed application included 23 claims. Applicant notes that an Assignment which was filed concurrently with the application included an attached application. It appears the Examiner examined the claims 1-24 which were part of the application attached to the Assignment.

Nevertheless, both sets of claims mentioned above are sufficiently similar that the Applicant can respond to the Examiner's rejections. In the present amendment, claim 15 has been cancelled and claims 1-14 and 16-24 have been amended to conform to claims 1-23 which were filed with the present application. The 37 CFR 1.75 (c) objections are believed overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS

Applicant has amended each of claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 103(A) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (Dynamic-Agents for Dynamic Service Provisioning) hereinafter referred to as Chen, in view of Jacobson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,744) hereinafter referred to as Jacobson, and further in view of Bhatia et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,029,203)

hereinafter referred to as Bhatia. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

A prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention is not established unless all the claim limitations are taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-14 and 16-24 as amended recite a combination of features not taught or suggested by the cited art. For example, amended claim 1 recites in part

“a control mechanism configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service.”
(emphasis added).

However, Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion of at least the above highlighted features in the cited art – either singly, or in combination.

In the present Office Action, it is suggested in paragraph 4 that Chen teaches “a control mechanism that is operable in response to a request for a service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway, to send a message to an external source...” (Chen, page 5, paragraph 14 and page 6, paragraph 1). However, Applicant submits Chen does not teach these features. In contrast, Chen teaches agents which may convey a request for the address of other entities or services to a coordinator. More specifically, Chen teaches:

“Dynamic-agents can form groups, referred to as **agent-domains**, ... At a minimum, an agent-domain includes a coordinator for the local name service.”
(Chen, page 7, paragraph 16).

“Every dynamic-agent is uniquely identified by its socket address It is also given a unique symbolic name. A coordinator agent is used to provide naming service. The coordinator is a dynamic-agent with the added distinction that it maintains the agent name registry and, optionally, resource lists. When a dynamic-agent, say A, is created, it will first attempt to register its symbolic name and address with the coordinator by sending a message to the coordinator. Thereafter, A can communicate with other dynamic-agents by name. When A needs to send a message to another whose address is unknown, it consults the coordinator to obtain the address. If A is instructed to load a program but the

address is not given, it consults the coordinator or the request sender to obtain the address. Each dynamic-agent also keeps an address-book, recording the addresses of those dynamic-agents which have become known to it, and are known to be alive.” (Chen, page 4, paragraph 7).

As can be seen from the above, Chen teaches a system wherein agents are uniquely identified by a socket address and are given a unique symbolic name. Created dynamic agents register with the coordinator so that the coordinator can provide a naming service for agents in the system. If an agent needs to know the address of another agent or program, it uses the received symbolic name to obtain the address from the coordinator (or from the requestor). Page 5 paragraph 14 and page 6 paragraph 1 of Chen disclose the same teachings. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that agents receive requests for services which are provided by *a module not present in the gateway* and then sending one or more messages to an external source until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that satisfies the request. As recited in the claims, at least (i) a request is received for a service provided by a service module, (ii) the service module is not present in the gateway, (iii) messages are conveyed to an external source, (iv) until a response is received which identifies a module in the gateway that satisfies the request. However, in Chen, the coordinator merely provides a naming service and the queries generated by agents to the coordinator represent requests for an address corresponding to a symbolic name. Clearly, all of the recited features are not taught or suggested by Chen.

Further, since an agent-domain always includes a coordinator, and the coordinator maintains the agent name registry and resource lists, the identity and location of all entities or services available are known to the coordinator and present in the agent-domain. Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Chen that a coordinator may obtain the address of an entity or service external to the agent-domain. Accordingly, the requests from the agents are not equivalent to requests “for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway.” Rather, the entity or service already exists – the agent merely needs the address corresponding to the entity or service. Once the address is known to the requesting agent, the address may be entered into the agent’s address book. (Chen, page 4, paras. 7-8). Furthermore, since a coordinator may satisfy a request from a dynamic-agent only with an entity or service that

is within the agent-domain, Chen does not teach “sending one or more messages to an external source” in response to the request as recited in Applicant’s amended claim 1.

Accordingly, all of the claim limitations of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art and a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Further, because claims 8, 16, 17, and 18 include similar features to that of claim 1, claims 8, 16, 17, and 18 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

Regarding claim 2, it is suggested in the present Office Action, paragraph 8, that Chen teaches “a control mechanism being operable to: react to a request identifying a first service module by accessing the record to identify if the first service module is held by the service gateway and ... requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source including the identity of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway...” However, Chen does not teach these features. Amended claim 2 recites in part, a control mechanism that

“is operable: to react to a received request that identifies a first service module by accessing the record to determine if the first service module is held by the service gateway ... and requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes an identification of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway”

In contrast, Chen merely discloses an agent with an “agenda handler” which includes a list of tasks to be executed by that agent. Some tasks may be sent as a request to another agent. (Chen, page 3, para. 13). In addition, agents may modify their behavior by requesting the address or location of code corresponding to a requested service. (Chen, page 6, para. 1). In such a case, the agent itself receives a request for a service that is not currently supported by the agent and the agent may request from another agent the address/location of a class corresponding to the service. However, there is no “accessing the record to determine if the first service module is held by the service gateway...” Applicant submits the agent receiving the request in Chen is not equivalent to the recited control mechanism. Also, Chen does not disclose a “record to determine . . . if the

first service module is not held by the service gateway.” Rather, the agent’s request in Chen for the address/location of a class may merely indicate that *the requesting agent* currently does not support a corresponding service. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of a service module [that] is not held by the service gateway.

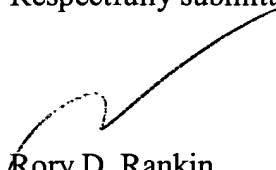
Accordingly, all of the claim limitations of claim 2 are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art and a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Therefore, claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Further, because claims 9 and 19 include similar features to that of claim 2, claims 9 and 19 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons. As each of dependent claims 3-7, 10-14, and 20-24 include at least the features of the independent claims and intervening dependent claims upon which they depend, each of dependent claims 3-7, 10-14, and 20-24 is believed patentable as well and further traversal of the Examiner’s comments concerning dependent claims 3-7, 10-14, and 20-24 is believed unnecessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5181-78400\RDR

Respectfully submitted,



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